

ABSTRACT

A process for cultivating *Morchella* ascocarps using mycelium and a tree seedling, the tree seedling having a root system and a shoot system. The process includes the steps of inoculating the root system with the mycelium to produce an inoculated tree seedling; stimulating the mycelium to form sclerotia by distressing the inoculated tree seedling; and inducing the sclerotia to produce ascocarps by providing conditions conducive to the formation of ascocarps. Also, the growth of trees may be accelerated by inoculating the root system with the mycelium. Furthermore, a process for cultivating *Morchella* sclerotia using mycelium and a tree seedling, the tree seedling having a root system and a shoot system includes the steps of inoculating the root system with the mycelium to produce an inoculated tree seedling; and stimulating the mycelium to form sclerotia by distressing the inoculated tree seedling.